



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105-3901

October 29, 1991
Mr. Peterson Zah
President
The Navajo Nation
P.O. Drawer 308
Window Rock, Navajo Nation, AZ 86515

RE: EPA Completion of Mine Reclamation Activities at the Haystack
Mine Sites outside of Prewitt, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of my Federal On-Scene-Coordinator's report summarizing EPA's response actions at the Brown-Vandever, Brown-Nanabah and Navajo-Desiderio Mine Sites located outside of Prewitt, New Mexico.

The mine reclamation activities involved the filling of all on-site open pits, the closing of open adits and shafts, and the revegetating of all reclaimed lands. The action was a complete success and has effectively reduced elevated gamma radiation and soil radionuclide concentrations to "natural" or background conditions. The once scared land has been transformed, and with time will once again become productive grazing areas. Looking out at the reclaimed areas and remembering what they looked like earlier makes me proud of all of the hard work and effort put into the job by my crew.

I have enjoyed my stay and work on the Navajo. During my stay I was fortunate enough to meet and become good friends with the Vandever family and members of the Navajo Superfund Program. I hope to return to oversee and/or conduct future response activities on the Navajo. I appreciated all of the support and input given to me by the Navajo Superfund; and I strongly believe they play an important role in preserving the natural beauty and environment on Navajo lands. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the report, please feel free to contact me at 415-744-2298.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Bornstein".

Robert E. Bornstein
USEPA OSC